Number of Mandays of work generated under wage employment	—	26.95 Lakhs

Under the Scheme of "projects under 10% lumpsum provision for the North Eastern Region including Sikkim", under which projects related to housing (predominantly for the urban poor), slum development and poverty alleviation are executed in the North Eastern States including Sikkim, during 2006-07, Rs. 50 crore were released to various executing agencies for new/ongoing projects. However, as the scheme targets for overall development of the region, the exact number of beneficiaries under the scheme can not be quantified.

Under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), during 2006-07, Rs. 10.69 Crore were released to the executing agencies for various ongoing projects. Total number of dwelling units and toilets covered under these projects were 21511 and 249 respectively.

Manual scavenging

3873. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that manual scavenging still persists in the country despite earlier target fixed by the Central Government upto 31st March, 2007 as scavengers free country;

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto;

(c) the main problems for non-implementation of Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS) by the State Governments;

(d) whether it is also a fact that fund allocated by his Ministry to the State Governments were unspent;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government are considering to revive ILCS scheme for successful implementation in various parts of the country by making it more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Water

flush toilets are not available to the entire population of the country. Dry toilets and manual scavenging still exists in some parts of the country.

To eradicate manual scavenging from the country, this Ministry is administering the "Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act 1993" which prohibits construction of dry latrines and employment of manual scavengers.

It is also implementing Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme which envisages conversion of dry latrines into water flush latrines in the urban areas of the country.

(c) the ILCs Scheme has been implemented in all the urban areas of the States. While implementing the scheme, the state governments faced some constraints as under:

(i) No subsidy for superstructure.

(ii) In the congested areas, due to non-availability of sufficient space, the individual latrines cannot be constructed with twin pits.

(iii) Poor loan recovery from individuals. State Governments are reluctant to provide guarantee for securing loan.

(iv) Subsidy being provided to the EWS families is only 45% which is much on the lower side and hence the scheme is less demanding.

(d) and (e) Major portion of the subsidy released by this Ministry to the states has been utilized by the State Governments.

(f) Yes, Sir, based on the suggestions received from the Planning Commission, State Governments and various stake-holders, revision of guidelines of the scheme is under the consideration of the Government.